

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

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R 232145Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, UK, HK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - CARGO HANDLING ARRANGEMENTS AT HONG KONG

REF: (A) LONDON 3532 AND (B) HONG KONG 2582

1. PAA AGAIN INQUIRING ABOUT RESULTS OF US APPROACH CONCERNING CONSORTIUM FOR AIR CARGO ACTIVITIES AT KAI TAK AIRPORT. THEY ARE STILL CONCERNED ABOUT POSITION OF CONSORTIUM, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT HAS POTENTIAL OF SPREADING TO OTHER LOCATIONS. ACCORDING TO PAA, FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF THE CONSORTIUM ARE STILL UNSATISFACTORY:

A. CONSORTIUM(HACTL)REFUSES TO ALLOW FULL SOVEREIGNTY OF THE AIRLINES OVER THEIR ASSIGNED CARGO AREAS. THEY ALSO REFUSE TO ALLOW ANY TYPE OF PHYSICAL BARRIER BETWEEN THE AIRLINES' ASSIGNED AREAS. THIS WILL MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR PAA (OR ANY OTHER US FLAG CARRIER) TO PREVENT THE PLACEMENT OF UNAUTHORIZED MATERIALS. THE PROCESSING OF RESTRICTED ARTICLES WOULD

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OBVIOUSLY BE COMPROMISED AND THEREFORE ALSO SAFETY.

B. THE COST TO THE AIRLINES WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY STATED.
HOWEVER, A FRAME OF "BETWEEN US 90 DOLLARS TO US 250
DOLLARS PER TON" WAS EXPRESSED. THIS COMPARES WITH A
PRESENT APPROXIMATE COST OF US 26 DOLLARS PER 1,000 KILOS.

C. THE AIRLINES WILL HAVE NO WAY OF INSURING COMPLIANCE
WITH MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS EXCEPT BY FILING SUIT
THROUGH THE COURTS.

D. AIRLINES ARE EXPECTED TO ASSUME LIABILITY OVER IMPORT
CARGO EVEN THOUGH IT WILL BE UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL
OF HACTL.

2. ADDRESSEE POSTS REQUESTED SUBMIT CURRENT STATUS
REPORT. RUSH

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